

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Background of the Study**

As social creatures, people need to make interaction each others. They should communicate to inform or state something that related to their life needs or their life wants. Besides informing, communication that people do also deal with the social relationship. People need to maintain their relationship with others in order to survive in social life. Therefore, people will use language as a main tool to form a communication.

According to Brown and Yule (1983) in Spencer-Oatey (2008), there are two main functions of language: the transactional function and the interactional function. Those two functions are closely interconnected. The goal of transactional language is to convey information coherently and accurately. Meanwhile, the goal of interactional language is to communicate friendliness and goodwill. Besides, interactional language functions to make the participants feel comfortable and unthreatened in communication. Weather forecast and academic lectures are typical examples of primarily transactional language, while greetings and small talk are typical examples of primarily interactional language. The relational aspect of language use is of central importance in all communication.

Spencer-Oatey (2008) stated that one of the main areas of linguistic theory that is relevant to relational communication is politeness theory.

Politeness is interpreted as a strategy employed by a speaker to achieve a variety of goals. One of the speaker goals is to get hearer to do an act which the speaker's wants, namely request. In order to get the hearer to do our intention, the speaker needs to choose linguistic forms of requests which are suitable with the relationship between the speaker and the hearer, and the seriousness of the request. The speaker also needs to employ politeness strategy. Politeness is a form of social interaction that is conditioned by the socio-cultural norms of a particular society; it can be expressed through communicative and communicative acts.

According to Brown and Levinson (1987: 60), politeness relates to the psychological state, something that is emotionally invested and that can be lost, maintained, or enhanced, and must be constantly attended to in interaction. Fauziati (2009) stated that Brown and Levinson theory views politeness in terms of conflict avoidance. Therefore, the central themes are rationality and face, which are claimed to be universal features, i.e. possessed by all speakers and hearers. Face is defined as an individual's feeling of self-worth or self-image, reputation or good names that everyone has and expects everyone else recognize.

Brown and Levinson (1987) discuss politeness primarily in relation to speech acts, such as requests, offers, compliments, criticism, and so on. Issue of controversy in politeness theory revolves round why speech acts such as requests and orders are interpersonally sensitive. Clearly, Brown and Levinson (1987) point out that speech acts have to be handled carefully.

Brown and Levinson (1987) explain that face consists of two related wants: positive and negative face. Positive face is a person's want to be appreciated and approved of by selected others, in terms of personality, desires, behavior, values, and so on. In another side, negative face is a person's want to be unimpeded by others, the desire to be free to act as she or he chooses and not to be imposed upon. They argue that requests are face-threatening because they impose on people's desire for autonomy, and thus threaten people's negative face. Brown and Levinson (1987) also suggest that it is generally in every single participant's best interest to maintain each other's face because losing face is a painful experience.

In every day human interaction, requests are one of the speech acts used quite frequently. Request according to Trosborg (1995: 187) is an expression of what the speaker wants the addressee to or to refrain from doing something. Requests which belong to directives speech act can easily threaten people's face, because they have an intention of a speaker to get the hearer since they put imposition on the shoulders of the hearer. Beside that, requests can affect people's autonomy, and freedom of choice. When speakers utter requests, speakers use to get someone else to do something. Thus, it can threaten people's sense of equity of rights.

Request is one of the face sensitive speech acts, and thus needs to be managed appropriately to maintain each other's face. According to Brown and Levinson's (1987) terms, requests are face-threatening acts (FTAS) which threaten the hearer's negative face. So those who perform a request

need to reduce the level of imposition created by an act being requested in order to save the hearer's face and, at the same time get his/her compliance with a request. In English language, there are some linguistic options that can be used for managing face and sociality rights. One of those options is using politeness strategy in saying request.

*Pride and Prejudice* is a 2005 British romance film directed by Joe Wright. This story is based on Jane Austen's 1813 novel about five sisters (Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Kitty and Lydia Bennet) from an English family of marriage, morality and misconception in Georgian era. Their lives are turned upside down when the family's future happiness and security is dependent on their making good marriages. Life is uneventful until the arrival in the neighborhood of a wealthy young man (Mr. Bingley) and his best friend (Mr. Darcy). There are many trial and tribulations stand between the Bennet sisters and their happiness, including class, gossip and scandal.

*Pride and Prejudice* movie is the rich source for polite utterances, especially linguistics politeness used by the characters. The characters lived in the Georgian era which was still adhering to social classes which were divided into three main groups of classes: The Upper Class (people with inherited wealth and high position), The Middle Class (industrialist, professionals, shop owners and business people), Lower or Working Class (people who are agricultural, mine and factory workers). By using this movie, the researcher intends to identify politeness strategy of request used by the

characters. Here are examples of the way the characters employ requests in *Pride and Prejudice* movie:

1. Lydia : **“Lizzie, lend me some money!”**

Elizabeth : “You already owe me a fortune, Liddy.”

The conversation above is between Lydia Bennet and her elder sister Elizabeth Bennet. Lydia wants to buy a ribbon for the ball in the milliner’s shop and directly ask Elizabeth and grabs her sleeve to lend her some money to buy the ribbon. Lydia initiates request using ‘bald on record’ strategy directly to ask Elizabeth to lend her money. She chooses this strategy because the distance between she and Elizabeth, her elder sister, is very close. Therefore, she does not need to be afraid of making offense.

2. Mr. Darcy : **“May I have the next dance, Miss Elizabeth?”**

Elizabeth : “You may.”

The dialogue happens when Mr. Darcy, a wealthy gentleman who owns half of Derbyshire, ask for Elizabeth permission to get dance with him in a ball in Netherfield. Mr. Darcy who is rich and intelligent shows his polite behavior by asking Elizabeth permission using ‘negative politeness’. Mr. Darcy uses ‘negative politeness’ to minimize the imposition because he does not really close to Elizabeth and the situation is in formal situation.

Related to the explanation above, it is interesting to analyze the act of request in *Pride and Prejudice* movie. There are various request expressions

in this movie which are conveyed in different forms by the characters, within different background, situation, topic, and setting. The request expressions in this movie, then, can be analyzed in relation to politeness strategy. From the description above, the writer is challenged to conduct a research paper to analyze the strategy of politeness in request that found in *Pride and Prejudice* movie with a title “**POLITENESS STRATEGIES OF REQUEST FOUND IN *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE* MOVIE**”.

#### **B. Problem of the Study**

Based on the research background, the problems discussed in this study can be stated as follows:

1. What types of politeness strategies of request are used in *Pride and Prejudice* Movie?
2. What are the dominant types of politeness strategies of request are used in *Pride and Prejudice* Movie?
3. What factors contribute to the choice of politeness strategies in realizing request in *Pride and Prejudice* Movie?

#### **C. Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem statements, the writer states the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To explain the types of politeness strategies of request are used in *Pride and Prejudice* Movie.

2. To identify the dominant types of politeness strategies of request are used in *Pride and Prejudice* Movie.
3. To describe the factors contribute to the choice of politeness strategies in realizing request in *Pride and Prejudice* Movie.

#### **D. Significant of the Study**

This research is carried out in order to give contribution as follows:

1. Academic benefits
  - a. The result of this study can contribute the pragmatic study, especially in giving description about politeness strategy.
  - b. The results of this study can be developed by other researcher dealing with politeness strategy in request in different perspective.
2. Practical benefits

##### **a. Students of English Department**

The writer hopes the students of English Department will get more knowledge in understanding pragmatic especially politeness strategy of request used by the native speaker in the movie.

##### **b. English Teachers**

The writer hopes the result of the study can be useful in developing teaching method especially in linguistic competence to achieve the communicative competence as well.

c. Next Researchers

The writer hopes the results of this research can be useful for the next researchers as the additional reference for further research in understanding politeness strategy.

## **E. Research Paper Organization**

The organization of research paper is given in order to make the readers understand the content of the papers as follow:

Chapter I is Introduction which consists of Background of the Study, Problem of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Benefit of the Study, and Research Paper Organization.

Chapter II is Underlying Theory which consists of Previous Study, and Theoretical Review which covers the Notion of Pragmatics and Sociopragmatics, Politeness Strategies, Classification of Politeness Strategies, Notion of Speech Acts, Classification of Speech Acts, Notion of Request, Classification of Request and Factors Influencing People to Use Politeness Strategy in Their Request.

Chapter III is Research Method which deals with Type of the Research, Object of the Research, Data and Data Source, Technique of Data Collecting and Technique of Data Analysis.

Chapter IV is Research Finding and Discussion. This chapter analyzes types of politeness strategies of request, the dominant types of politeness



strategies of request are used, and factors influencing the characters to use politeness strategy in their request. The next point is discussion.

Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion. This chapter provides the conclusion of the results of the study, the pedagogical implication of this study and suggestion from the researcher related with her result of the study.